

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 21-45 are pending. An Office Action mailed March 13, 2002 rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 21-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-19 and 21-45 as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (hereinafter Choy). The Office Action states that Choy discloses a multi-tiered indexing system for parallel processing. The Office Action further states that Choy discloses a self contained key-ordered list of data objects, a plurality of memories and a plurality of servers containing a segment of the self contained key-ordered list of data objects, and a query processor for directing received queries to one of the servers for processing in parallel. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Choy discloses a global index that includes key values and associated packet identifiers (PIDs). Applicant further submits that Choy does not specify a range of keys for each segment. In Choy, a segment is considered a PID. Choy does not perform any comparison to any specified ranges of keys for each segment. Therefore, Applicant submits that Choy fails to teach or suggest directing each receipt queried to one of the plurality of servers by comparing the data content of the query to the specified range of keys for each segment. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 16 are allowable over the cited reference.

Because Claims 2, 4-15, 17-19 and 21-45 depend on allowable independent claims, they are allowable for the same reasons that make their corresponding independent claims allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}



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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

07-29-04
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